

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022750

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SO, US

SUBJECT: AMPASSADOR ADDOU'S CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY
INGERSOLL

1. ON JANUARY 28, SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU CALLED ON
DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL TO REPORT ON HIS RECENT CONSUL-
TATIONS IN SOMALIA. ADDOU SAID HE FOUND SIGNIFICANT DESIRE
ON PART OF PRESIDENT SIAD AND OTHER SOMALI LEADERS FOR
BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN PARTICULAR, THE SUPREME
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AT THE INSTANCE OF SIAD, HAD
FORMALLY ENDORSED A POLICY OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US.
HAVING GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE THROUGH A REVOLUTION,
SOMALIA DID NOT INTEND TO BECOME HEAVILY DEPENDENT AGAIN
UPON ANY ONE COUNTRY. ADDOU SAID THAT THERE WERE NO
LIMITS OR RESERVATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/SOMALI
RELATIONS. HE HOPED TO SEE THE FRUIT OF THIS DECISION IN
MORE FAVORABLE SOMALI POSITIONS AT UN ON ISSUES OF IMPOR-
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TANCE TO USG, ALTHOUGH ON SENSITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES

SOMALIA WOULD SUPPORT STRONG OAU POLICY OF TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF AFRICA. HE LOOKED FOR AN INCREASE IN HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS VISITING THE UNITED STATES. HE EXPECTED THAT A DEFINITE TIME FOR A NAVAL VISIT WOULD BE FIXED SHORTLY, PERHAPS FOR MARCH OR APRIL.

2. ADDOU THEN RECALLED THAT THE SHIP VISIT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1975 DID NOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER CONCERNING RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA. GSDR LEADERSHIP WAS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE IMPLICATION THAT GSDR WAS DEPENDENT ON RUSSIA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. SUCH PRESS REPORTS RETARDED THE ADVANCE OF US/SOMALI RELATIONS, AND HE ASKED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO DISCOURAGE USG SOURCES FROM PROVIDING THE PRESS WITH STORIES OF THIS NATURE.

3. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVED THE MILITARY FACILITIES AT BERBERA EXCEEDED THE NEEDS OF THE SOMALIS AND WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEAVY SOVIET PRESENCE, WE TRIED TO DISCOURAGE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BUT WERE NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL. ADDOU COMMENTED THAT BERBERA WAS BEING BUILT UP IN THE EXPECTATION THAT SOMALIA WOULD BE A FOOD SUPPLIER TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT BERBERA WOULD BECOME A MAJOR FREE PORT AND TRADING CENTER. HE ADMITTED THAT HAVING ACCEPTED ENORMOUS ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM RUSSIA, THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DENY THEM COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, BUT HE SAID THAT AS US/SOMALI BILATERAL RELATIONS IMPROVED, HE EXPECTED TO SEE RUSSIAN INFLUENCE DECREASE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US NAVY COULD IN TIME VISIT ALL THE MAJOR SOMALI PORTS: MOGADISCIO FIRST AND LATER BERBERA AND CHISIMAI.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH THE US DECISION TO RESUME AID TO SOMALIA, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT THE MOST PROMISING PROJECT FOR FY 1976 WAS A PL 480 PROGRAM. IF OUR FIRST STEPS IN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS WENT WELL, WE COULD THEN MORE CLEARLY DISCERN WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT BRING. IN RESPONSE TO ADDOU'S COMMENT THAT THE NEED FOR

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AMERICAN AID WAS PRESSING, DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WAS WELL ADVANCED AND WE WERE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR PROGRAM.

5. AN AID OFFICIAL WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT MOGADISCIO SOON, AND WE HOPED THAT GSDR WOULD BE PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF PROGRAM. DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE ENDORSEMENT OF BETTER

RELATIONS BY THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, AND THOUGHT A NAVAL VISIT WAS A GOOD IDEA AND WOULD BE A CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF SRC POLICY DECISION. SINCE THE USN NORMALLY NEEDED 60 DAYS NOTICE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RECEIVE SOON SUGGESTED TIME FOR A SPRING VISIT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE DEVELOPMENTS IN DJIBOUTI, ADDOU SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE TFAI PRIME MINISTER HAD WANTED TO PUSH FOR IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE, FORTUNATELY THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE WAS MORE PRUDENT. SOMALIA DID NOT INSIST THAT THE NEW COUNTRY JOIN WITH IT BUT IT DID INSIST THAT THE INHABITANTS OF "FRENCH SOMALILAND" BE FREE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE IN AN ELECTION IN WHICH THEY COULD ALL PARTICIPATE. ADDOU SAID THAT THE GSDR HAD TOLD THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT IT HAD NO REASON NOT TO TRUST FRANCE. GSDR WAS ENCOURAGED THAT THE HIG COMMISSIONER HAD ASSUMED SOME OF THE POWERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THUS GIVING MORE HOPE OF A FREE ELECTION. HE ADDED THAT SOMALIA WOULD SUPPORT AN EFFORT BY FRANCE TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT SHE HAS WITH OTHER FORMER FRENCH COLONIES. THUS, SOMALIA HAD NO OBJECTION TO FRENCH CULTURAL EFFORTS OR THE USE OF PORT FACILITIES IF SUCH WAS THE DECISION OF A FREELY CHOSEN DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED THAT USG SUPPORT SOMALIA IN ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AN EQUITABLE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TOWARD TRUE INDEPENDENCE. DEPUTY SECRETARY THANKED ADDOU FOR HIS VIEWS ON TFAI AND INDICATED DEPT WOULD BE HAVING FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM ON THE SUBJECT.

6. ADDOU THEN SPOKE ON ANGOLA, GIVING WHAT HE SAID WERE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS. IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE MPLA HAD THE UPPER HAND AND IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR US TO DEVELOP

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COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEM. ADDOU WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM WOULD WORK TO BLOCK THE OVERWHELMING INFLUENCE OF ONE POWER IN ANGOLA AS IT HAD ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. IT WAS, HE SAID, STILL TIME FOR USG TO ACT AND HE BELIEVED THE MPLA WOULD WELCOME US MOVE. DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO SEE ALL THE ANGOLAN PARTIES GET TOGETHER. HE THEN THANKED ADDOU FOR HIS EFFORTS IN SOMALIA IN BEHALF SOMALI-US RELATIONS. KISSINGER

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